



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia Gibbons
Director

Media Advisory:
August 17, 2006

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Special Events at the 30th Annual Summer School of Gerontology
August 20 through 25 at Springmaid Beach Conference Center

The Summer School of Gerontology is an annual event that brings together professionals and advocates who work in aging issues from state and local government agencies, non-profits and the private sector for a week of intensive classes and seminars that focus on the latest information in issues related to seniors.

Professionals and senior advocates from communities across South Carolina will be attending. To assist news organizations interested in covering this event from the perspective of participants from their local coverage areas, the SC Aging News Service of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging will be using the Internet to post interviews, photographs, and descriptions of classes and activities as they happen. This information will be updated daily on the Summer School of Gerontology "Blog," which you can visit beginning on Monday, August 21 via a link from the following URL:

<http://www.aging.sc.gov/AgingNewsService/ANSCurrent.htm#August17Content>

Special Events

- On Monday (August 21) at noon, Dr. Jan Bowden, the new director of Coastal Carolina University's Center for the Study of Aging and Active Retirement, will provide the keynote speech at a kick-off luncheon for Summer School in the exhibit hall of the Robert Reid Conference Center with a message to the students about the Center's work on aging and retirement issues in the Grand Strand Region.
- Wednesday (August 23) is Senior Day at Summer School. Courses of interest are offered for seniors, and they may visit the exhibit hall and attend the 7:00 p.m. Native American dance demonstration (see below) free of charge.

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- Lt. Governor André Bauer will provide the keynote address at the Senior Day luncheon at noon. The Lt. Governor will speak about new initiatives in research into senior health spearheaded by the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging that are aimed at preparing South Carolina for the coming Senior Boom.
- Also on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Summer School attendees will experience an authentic Native American dance demonstration by the Waccamaw Indian People, a state-recognized tribe in Horry County. Chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension are affecting South Carolina's Native American Elders at an alarmingly high rate. Barbara MorningStar Paul, from the State Commission for Minority Affairs, will be teaching a class: The Invisible Population – Native Americans in South Carolina on Wednesday afternoon.

Media coverage of these events would be extremely helpful in highlighting the importance of these issues to South Carolina's fast-growing senior population and their families. The Grand Strand area of South Carolina, in particular, is attracting large numbers of new residents who are of retirement or near retirement age; a trend experts predict will continue to increase over the next two decades. The Lt. Governor's Office on Aging is committed to working with other agencies and organizations to ensure that South Carolina is ready for the challenges and opportunities that the anticipated doubling of our senior population will bring.

Please contact David Lucas in the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging if you would like assistance arranging coverage of any of these events, or to schedule an interview with Summer School participants such as Dr. Bowman or Lt. Governor André Bauer.

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